



THE NAVAJO NATION

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
PRESIDENT

FRANK DAYISH, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT

December 27, 2005

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

First Quarterly Report Fiscal Year 2006 (October, November, December 2005)

I. Program Information

Director Name : Larry Chee, Fire Chief
Telephone No. : (928) 871-6915
Department : Fire & Rescue Services/NDPS

II. Budget/Performance Information

a. Funding and Expenditures

Most of the purchase order from FY05 is closing out; only two or three are still open. Still waiting for the invoices. There were 10 PR's processed for PO's for FY06.

BUDGET EXPENSE FOR FY06:

Office	Funding Source	No. # Personnel	No.# Vehicles	FY2006 Personnel	% Used	FY2006 Operating	% Used
	General	12	17	\$89,404.60	19%	\$23,682.60	9%
	External	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	
	Other	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	
	Total	12	17	\$89,404.60	19%	\$23,682.60	9%

III. Accomplishments

- a. Conducted audits of the four (4) fire stations on October 3 and 4, 2005. The reason for the audit was to make the districts aware of what areas they need to address with the coming of the performance evaluations and these audits were based on last year's performance evaluations.
- b. On October 10, 2005 the FEMA Grant (EMW-2005-FG-02690) to replace all Fire Suppression Equipment (hoses, nozzles, foam, adapters and foam and water appliances)

was approved through Public Safety Committee with Pete Ken Etcitty, Council Delegate sponsoring the legislation. On December 5, 2005 it was presented again, as the first attempt failed with tabling the effort and IGR finally passing with unanimous vote.

- c. On October 7, 2005, Fire Prevention and Safety Grant was submitted to the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$133,480.00 to create fire safety brochures, coloring and activity books that are culturally appropriate for the Navajo people. The goal of this grant is to basically take a cultural approach to fire prevention through story telling and the application of those stories.
- d. Funding allocated by the Navajo Nation Council in FY2005, the department ordered four SCBA compressors and 96 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, the compressors will help reduce unnecessary miles as all the districts had to come into Window Rock to fill up their SCBA air bottles, because Window Rock was the only one that had a compressor and now Tuba City, Leupp, Chinle will receive compressors and Window Rock Windowrock is also receiving a new one due to the age of the existing one. All Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) has come in and will be issued out during the New Year. The department had ordered the following:

96	<u>Self Contained Breathing Apparatus</u>
173	<u>SCBA Bottles</u>
38	<u>Spare SCBA Mask</u>
55	<u>SCBA Brackets</u>
8	<u>Rapid Intervention Kits</u>
34	<u>Spectacle kits</u>
37	<u>Spare head harnesses</u>
28	<u>Gallon jugs of disinfectant</u>
1	<u>SCBA Fit Test Kit</u>
28	<u>SCBA Cases</u>

IV. Status of On-Going Activities

- a. The department is still waiting for the Letter of Acceptance (LOA) to be processed between the State of Arizona and the Navajo Nation. The department initially sought to get this LOA approved between the State of Arizona and the Department of Fire & Rescue Services, however this attempt was stopped. The department has over \$385,000 allocated from the State of Arizona to develop its haz-mat team. But since we are waiting for the agreement, the department has not been able to do much. Furthermore, the lack of the LOA is also holding up equipment that Apache County bought for the department under a DHS grant. Last we understood the LOA was at the Presidents Office for signature. This initiative has been pending for over a year now and we need have it signed as soon as possible.
- b. Hazardous Materials SOP's were updated to reflect our Hazardous Materials Team. Included in the update was the department Hazardous Materials Response Guidelines.

- c. Members of the department are reviewing the plan and policies and are making their recommendations and comments.
- d. To address the lack of fire inspections being conducted in the districts, a Company Level Fire Inspection class was conducted. 10 Firefighters (3 Volunteers and 7 Paid) attended the three-day class. This class was recognized by Northland Pioneer College (NPC) and with the students receiving college credits through NPC.
- e. Attended NFIRS Training at the Salt River Indian Community. This class was an introduction to NFIRS 5.0 and how to input and access data in the federal database.
- f. December, presented to the Motor Vehicle Review Board, to have the Navajo Nation Vehicle Handbook amended, to reflect, to have Volunteer Fire Fighters operate Tribal Vehicles, as the new Hand Book does not address this and it does not authorize Volunteers to operate vehicles. It was agreed by the Committee to accept our initiative in adding and amending the policy to our request.
- g. Planning initiative with the Navajo Nation E 9-1-1 Task Force Committee meet in as a member in developing MOA's and computer geographical software to be apart of the service plan for the Navajo E 9-1-1 system. The proposal for funding this initiative is about 80% ready.
- h. Planning initiative with the Navajo Nation Global Disaster Network Committee, this initiative is about 70% ready and local, state and Government Washington Office has given support to fund. Committee anticipates moving forward to get offices, employ data collectors and operational staff when full funding is received.
- i. Submitted for the third time additions and correction of the Navajo Nation Emergency All HAZARD Plan and on the last revision the same content without our input that we submitted was inputted and it appears our input was not considered or deliberately remove or uncounted to be credit of our efforts. These types of input need to be carefully reviewed and considered as it takes a lot of our time in early development and time to write such policies and the end result is fruitless.

V. Status of Action Plan (A, B & C Lists)

- a. FEMA Grant (EMW-2005-FG-02690) for Fire Suppression Equipment (hoses, nozzles, foam, adapters and foam and water appliances) is at the President's office for approval. Once the President accepts the Grant, the department will be ready to purchase fire suppression equipment.
- b. Waiting for the results of the Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, in the amount of \$133,480.00.
- c. These SCBA are replacing 15+ years old SCBA that are currently in use in the department and have been jeopardizing the safety of our members. To ensure the safety

of its members with the new SCBA's, training and fit testing was provided to all members of the department.

- d. The Motor Vehicle Review Board is to send out notice to accept in honoring our request to change the vehicle operators policy to have volunteers operate tribal vehicle and to date we have not receive notice, but we were told to operate as usual.

VI. Outstanding Program Issues

- a. Volunteerism is on the decline. The department needs an attractive incentive plan that includes pay per call status and benefits (i.e. insurance). Based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, people need their safety needs met, which include money and health care. By offering these two incentives, the department should see an increase in volunteer recruitment and retention.
- b. Pinion, LeChee and now Red Mesa are all in need of fire stations. We have already approached Pinion and LeChee offering fire and rescue services, however none have stepped up to accept. Red Mesa is a growing community, with a clinic to be built. Hospital officials are concerned regarding the lack of fire protection and have been in contact with our office. Hospital officials were told to work with the chapter to determine if land is available to rally community support.
- c. Our Fire Academy is on hold, with no increase of general funds, due to lack of funds to graduate more cadets, as our instruction cost can not be funded with shortage of funds, this is due to our budget cut for FY06 of 26,000 and we barely have enough to operate our operational activities, equipment maintenance and necessary matching funds for grants we anticipate to apply for and

VII. Problems/Recommendations

- a. Major problems emerging this new fiscal year is the lack of our department going on emergency calls. During weekends and after normal work hours, many calls are not responded to. The primary reason is lack of volunteer firefighters and the paid firefighters getting burnt out and the following number of *active* volunteer firefighters show only how many volunteers are actually responding to calls:

Ft. Defiance	2
Windowrock	4
Tuba City	4
Chinle	3
Indian Wells	2
<u>Leupp</u>	<u>3</u>
	18 Volunteers

All districts are reportedly having this problem of calls not being responded to, we have begun addressing this problem by moving the vacant firefighter position to Tuba City and creating a new position in Chinle, but we need more paid positions.

- b. To address the recruitment and retention problem, the department still needs resources to offer recognition programs, to pay competitively (for both career and volunteer firefighter), to develop its members professionally and personally during their career, and to offer assistance in balancing their work and family life. With a small operating budget, the Navajo Nation Fire Department will need to seek Division level support to attain the necessary resources to implement those areas of need.
- c. The lack of attention to fleet management is still an issue of concern. Fleet management is still treating the department as a non-priority. Fire apparatus are not being repaired or serviced quickly enough. For example, the Indian Wells fire station fire truck (Engine 70) is still at Chinle fleet, and has been there for two weeks to get "A" service and the engine warmer re-installed. Chinle further reported that Rescue 5 was out for 366 hours for brake service. Overall, all the districts report poor service from fleet management.
- d. We have not received any of the last three quarterly reports (FY05) that were sent to the Presidents Office from the division and we would like to know if our concerns are even been submitted. We would like to also see that our concerns are submitted with high importance, just like others departments and the Fire District also would like to see what is submitted and if we don't have copies of what was submitted from the Division, we really couldn't report anything to the Districts and if any support is given from the Division and the President Office for the Fire Department and to date we don't see any support in receiving more funds or initiative to increase our manpower and equipment budget, but our Budget was cut 26, 000 for FY06.

VIII. Flow Chart (most recent/updated chart attached)